Losses Suffered by AI

1993. SHRI PREME CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is on the brink of turning sick by losing almost Rs. 1.0 crore a day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Air India is losing Rs. 1.0 crore per day and losing its share day by day;

(c) whether it is a fact that it has 700 people per aircraft which is the highest percentage of manpower per aircraft; and

(d) if so, what are Government's views and plans to counter this situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No. Sir. The net losses of Air India during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 were Rs. 181.01 crores and Rs. 174.48 crores respectively.

(c) As on 30.11.1999, the number of employees per aircraft was 696.

(d) The steps taken by Air India Ltd. are:

(i) closing down of uneconomical stations and downsizing the officers; (ii) a reducing number of staff and establishment costs at Indian/Toreign stations; (iii) re-deployment of staff in India and abroad; (iv) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories; (v) introduction of leave without pay and allowance scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years; and (vi) rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.

Revision of Retirement age of IA Employees

1994. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirement age in Indian Airlines

is proposed to be reduced from 60 to 58 years which was raised from 58 to 60 last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the hardship the employees have to face due to sudden downward revision of retirement age within a year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines is considering a proposal to reduce the retirement age from 60 to 58 years with a view to improving aircraft to employee ratio and effect savings. The decision will be taken after giving due consideration to all aspects of the matter.

Commencement of Cargo Movement from Guwahati Airport

1995. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cargo movement from Guwahati Airport has commenced;

(b) if so, the details of facilities created and cargo moved so far and formalities required to be completed for its full operation;

(c) if not, the details of constraint, anticipated solution and target fixed; and

(d) the facilities required to be created to commence international flight operations from Guwahati Airport and target date fixed for such operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIAITON (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. So far four consignments of cargo consisting of potato seeds, cut and polished sattans and carbon blades have been exported out of Guwahati airport.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided accommodation for processing & export/import cargo at Guwahati airport. The Customs Department has been allotted necessary office space at the Airport. A walk in cooler facility has also been set up for perishable cargo.